

Exploring the Effect of Reporter-Source Relationship on Reporting Outcome

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Abstract

Quality of news story widely depends on the quality of the source. A vital part of the reporter's job consists of cultivating sources, the lifeline of journalism. The present study attempts to study the impact of different aspects of cultivating routine sources on their news related outcome in the context of Bangladesh. For this study, data were collected through structured and self administered questionnaire from 105 reporters ($N = 105$) working in different newspapers in the country's second largest city and commercial capital Chittagong. Chi-square (χ^2) tests were performed between reporting outcome as the dependent variable and different component of relationship as independent variables. Besides, Spearman's correlation was employed to see the association between the variables. The findings reveal that maintaining friendly relations, nurturing relationship in everyday life, showing respect to off the record and concealing sources identity were appeared to be significant ($p < 0.01$) predictor for high level of news outcome, while maintaining friendly and good relationship and presenting gift were associated ($p < 0.05$) with outcome.

Keywords: Routine Source, Reporter, Interpersonal Relationship, Cultivating Source, Reporting Outcome

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INTRODUCTION

Routine human sources of news are those people with whom reporters contact regularly in a beat and the contacts provide the reporters with information and supply documents for preparing news (Berkowitz, 2009; Fleming, Hemmingway, Moore, & Welford 2006; Jones, 1976; Pape & Featherstone, 2005). These sources include officials, clerks, law-enforcing agency officers, lawyers, politicians, secretaries, legislators and ministers (Fleeson, 1998; Mencher, 1991). Routine sources are the prime and widely used medium of gathering news worthy and reliable information as well as covering a beat for reporters in all forms of reporting (Brooks, Kennedy, Moen, & Ranly, 1992; Frost, 2010; Hall, 1994; Itule & Anderson, 2007; Jones, 1976; Mckane, 2006; Teel & Taylor, 1988). A personal contact in a news story will often reap a reporter more news facts than going through the “official” channels (Burken, 1976, p. 44). There is an axiom that human sources are the newsmen’s ‘life blood’ (Mencher, 1991, p. 282). Without trusted sources a reporter cannot have access to information and therefore, it is not possible to do his or her job properly. Some journalists attributed the source-book as ‘Bible’ considering its importance (Rich, 2010, p. 87). Though reporters get information from various sources such as personal observation, Internet, other news media, still they have to rely heavily on ‘word-of-mouth information’ of human sources for obtaining breaking news, routine information, day event, news-clue and exclusive news (Neal & Brown, 1997, p. 225). From getting information on a road accident to reveal the corruption against prime minister—all are the contributions of the relationship between human news sources and reporters. Even sometimes, human sources are the only way for having access to physical sources, for examples, written documents, records and files. Hence, reporters have to make rapport and bring up their sources due to their significant existence for having information provided by them. It is inevitable for newsmen to know their sources along with other pertinent facts such as their area of works, their interest, their contact numbers, when and where to find them, which documents sources

handle regularly and what type of information they can provide, which subject they will talk about, and above all, how they can be allured and pressured (Burken, 1976; Charnley & Charnley 1979; Neal & Brown 1997, Rich, 2010). In fact, reporters can enhance their efficiency if they have proper cooperation from routine sources.

Like other countries, there are some legal, institutional and attitudinal barriers to smooth and effective reporter-source relationship in Bangladesh. ‘Official Secrecy Act’ is working as an impediment for decades, consequently many government officials are reluctant to talk and be intimate with reporters being afraid of this act, thus restricting the information flow. Besides, some institutional obstacles are observed here where different government institutions, agencies and autonomous bodies often ban the entry of reporters after being irritated with news published against them. These factors are resulting in growing attitudinal problem and inferior complexity among potential sources that impede them to interact with reporters. These hurdles compel reporters to take tactics to coax the sources for providing information they seek for. As a result, in some cases reporters have to barter some enticing amenities with sources for having desired information those are aberrant from journalistic ethics. For instance, reporters often attribute sources’ name, quotes and deeds positively; present gift; give money and take sources’ suggestion regarding writing news, even conceal news related to public interest etc. However, inversely, many reporters follow systematic approach along with ethical norms to develop and nurture sources mainly focusing on building up interpersonal bond and establishing a relationship of trust based on humanity. In fact, the country is facing the deficiency of appropriate guidelines as journalists’ apex bodies, media houses, scholars and experts have failed to provide essential and detailed tips in terms of cultivating news sources.

LITERATURE REVIEW

The conceptual structure for this study is based on some common concepts of cultivating human sources described by many journalists, experts

and authors. Globally, regarding cultivating sources some traditional activities and “responsibilities” are widely practiced and followed by reporters (Charnley & Charnley, 1979, p. 196). Usually, reporters spend much time in cultivating routine sources to assure that the reporters care about them in a personal way and in return, sources provide the reporters with newsworthy information and necessary tips that assist to file news stories.

Actually, reporter-source relationship is a form of “interpersonal relationship” (Adler & Rooman, 2006, p. 188), a significant “dyadic person-to-person” link such as friendship (Gamble & Gamble, 2005, p. 233) where “intimate” interpersonal relationships are characterized by high degree of understanding, warmth and friendliness (Dobkin & Pace, 2003, p. 187). For getting newsworthy information, first of all, a reporter has to establish a “friendly” relationship with a number of people (Mencher, 1991, p. 282) and to maintain this relationship and personal connection as well (Frost, 2010). In addition, while covering a beat, the reporter should nurture the relationship in everyday life through the exercise of composure, understanding and a reasonable aptitude contrary to common wellbeing (Mencher, 1991).

To maintain a good relationship some beat reporters do favors for their sources whenever possible (Brooks, Kennedy, Moen, & Ranly, 1992; Mencher, 1991); even sometimes reporters present gifts to their sources and their family members. Besides this, Neal & Brown (1997) emphasized on showing courtesy in attributing source’s name and quotes positively in the report. They mention that it is common civility to attribute positively in a news story to its source, even when attribution isn’t necessary to the reader. According to the authors, above all, the sources lend a hand to a reporter to get the story, and most are dissatisfied if their names are not cited.

In addition, sources expect to be protected and reporters protect them when confidentiality is requested (Mencher, 1991; Neal & Brown, 1997; Pape & Featherstone, 2005). The protection of sources has also “ethical” connotation (Brooks, Kennedy, Moen, & Ranly, 1992, p. 304). Reporting custom encourages all reporters to protect their news sources, even to the point of imprisoning (Jones, 1976). In a number of situations in America

reporters are protected by “shield law” that pronounces communications and transactions between a reporter and his news source a matter of privilege (Itule & Anderson, 2007). Actually, a reporter has to make such an accord to protect sources from losing their career, their job, losing livelihood or even their life (Frost, 2010). Usually, the reporters provide protection for sources by showing respect to off the record and concealing source’s identity when sources want to be remained anonymous in the news story (Jones, 1976; Neal & Brown, 1997). This involves not only keeping their name and identity concealed from readers, from everyone else in the beat and even other reporters in the newspaper, but also taking the crucial steps to make sure that no one can make out the link between source and reporter (Pape & Featherstone, 2005). Moreover, in some cases, the source’s relationship with the reporter is such that the source feels free to make the suggestion regarding the reporting process (Mencher, 1991).

OBJECTIVES

The overall goal of this study is to explore the impact of different elements of cultivating sources on reporting outcome in the context of Bangladesh. Some other specific objectives of the study are as follows:

- To analyze the degree of various components of relationship maintained by the reporter with their sources;
- To examine the interrelationship between different elements of source-reporter relationship.

METHODOLOGY

Study design and sample size

Convenience sampling, a type of non-probability sampling was used in the study. The study consisted of a sample of 105 reporters ($N = 105$) working in different newspapers in Chittagong City. Participants of the study have been working as reporters in bureau offices of 18 national and six local newspapers in the city. The study area has been selected for the convenience of the researchers. The survey was conducted during the month of January

and February 2016. Mean age of the respondents was found to be 33.18 years ($SD = 8.03$) and mean duration of involving with reporting were reported as 9.74 years ($SD = 7.25$). A total of 115 questionnaires were administered and 105 were returned back; all were usable. The response rate was 91.3%.

Data collection

Data were collected by pretested, structured and self administered questionnaire consisting of three parts such as demographic and background characteristics of respondents, different elements of relationship maintained by reporters with sources; and the questions related to news outcome. The questionnaire was finalized after a pilot study on 10 respondents. Five graduate students who were quite acquainted with social science research worked as data collectors.

Dependent variables

Three statements comprising the desired reporting outcome of reporters using key source in the beat such as getting daily event, having clues as well as story ideas and obtaining newsworthy information for exclusive story in the beat were constructed to assess the level of reporting outcome. 5-point Likert scales were used ranging from 1 (strongly disagree) to 5 (strongly agree) for analyzing the components. Afterwards, the researcher computed these three variables into one variable expressing the total news outcome ($M = 2.32$, $SD = .54$). Then the average scores were classified into two parts; accordingly dependent variable was dichotomous whether reporting outcome was attributed as either 'low' or 'high'.

Independent variables

As it was mentioned earlier this study aims at to examine the association between reporter's endeavors of maintaining relationship with source and news gathering, so eight components pertaining to relationship were employed as independent variables. Most of the variables imply the canon of cultivating sources such as taking care of the sources, providing protection of them and exchanging between two parties were mentioned in the erudite works of copious scholars and journalists. In addition, few variables were adopted as

these elements of relationship are practiced regularly by some reporters. The eight independent variables are: *maintaining friendly and good relationship* by reporters with sources, *nurturing relationship* in everyday life, *doing favor*, *presenting gift*, *attributing source's name and quotation positively* in the report, *showing respect to off the record*, *concealing sources' name and identity* and *putting emphasis on sources' suggestion* relating to reporting in newspaper. In applicable variables, either 'low-moderate-high' or 'rarely-sometimes-always' answer options were used to analyze the degree of cultivating sources by the reporters.

Statistical analysis

Data were entered and analyzed using SPSS version 16. Data were analyzed at three levels. Primarily, descriptive statistics using frequencies and percentage distribution were used to see the demographic, socioeconomic and background characteristics of respondents (See Table 1). Secondly, descriptive statistics using cross tabulation and chi-square (χ^2) test were used to see the overall percentage distribution of the study for both cultivating their most important source in the major beat and overall reporting outcome. A p-value of less than 0.05 was considered statistically significant. Finally, Spearman's correlations between the independent variables and news outcome were applied to see the association more evidently.

Ethical considerations

Informed consent was obtained from all participants in the study. Confidentiality of collected information was maintained by the facilitators. Study participants had the right to opt out of the study any time they wanted.

FINDINGS

Socio-demographic and background characteristics of study respondents

Table-1 shows the socio-demographic and background characteristics of the study participants. Of the total respondents, 72 (68.6%) had completed graduate level education; whereas 33 (31.4%) had attained undergraduate

level. As regards the discipline of study, majority of the respondents (63, 60%) were from non-journalism background, while 42 (40%) had studied at the department of Journalism in higher educational institutions. Besides this, in terms of educational institution 68.4% and 35.2% were from universities and colleges respectively. Same number was reported in case of the participants' age between 28-35 years as well as 36 years and above amounting 39 (37.1%) and remaining 27 (25.7%) were aged between 21-27 years. Of the total reporters, 90 (85.7%) were males and only 15 (14.3%) females. Regarding the respondents' position in newspaper organizations, most of them were Staff Reporters accounting 61 (58.1%) followed by Senior Reporter with 32 (30.5%) and Trainee Reporter 12 (11.4%). Of the participants, 44 (41.9%) had 5-12 years reporting experience, 32 (30.5%) had 1-4 years and 29 (27.6%) had 13 years and above professional experience. Besides, 21% participants covered *Economy and Business* as their main beat followed by *Crime/Court* (16.2%), *Education* (11.4%), *Health/Environment* (10.5%), *Politics* (9.5%), *Port/Customs* and *Service Sector* as well (8.5%). During the survey, 37.1% reporters have covered their major beat for 1-3 years while 33.3% and 29.5% were with 4-9 years and 10 years and above respectively.

Moreover, 68 (64.8%) respondents demanded that they had high level of knowledge on their major beat while 37 (35.2%) claimed moderate knowledge. Of the participants, majority (50.5%) were highly satisfied with their profession, while 40% and 9.5% were satisfied with moderate and low level respectively.

Distribution of news outcome by different elements of relationship maintained by reporters with key routine sources

The percentage distribution of the frequency of reporting outcome by different elements of relationship maintained by the reporters with their key sources is presented in Table 2. Overall, 67 (63.8%) participants reported high level of news outcome and remaining 38 (36.2%) reported of having low outcome in this regard. It was evident that the higher *the friendly and good relationships* maintained by the reporters, the more reporting outcome

Table 1: Demographic and Background Characteristics of Respondents

Background characteristics (N=105)	Category	Frequency(f)	Percent (%)
Education	Undergraduate	33	31.4
	Graduate	72	68.6
Discipline of study	Non-Journalism	63	60.0
	Journalism	42	40.0
Educational institution	College	37	35.2
	University	68	64.8
Age	21-27 years	27	25.7
	28-35 years	39	37.1
	36 years >	39	37.1
Gender	Female	15	14.3
	Male	90	85.7
Occupation	Trainee Reporter	12	11.4
	Staff Reporter	61	58.1
	Senior Reporter	32	30.5
Reporting experience	1-4 years	32	30.5
	5-12 years	44	41.9
	13 years >	29	27.6
News beat	Economy and Business	22	21.0
	Politics	10	9.5
	Crime/Court	17	16.2
	Health/Environment	11	10.5
	Port/Customs	09	8.5
	Education	12	11.4
	Service Sector	09	8.5
	Others	19	18.1
Beat experience	1-3 years	39	37.1
	4-9 years	35	33.3
	10 years >	31	29.5
Respondents' knowledge of major beat	Moderate	37	35.2
	High	68	64.8
Satisfaction with this profession	Low	10	9.5
	Moderate	42	40.0
	High	53	50.5

were noted accounting 75.4%. In addition, reporters who *nurtured relationship* in everyday life in high level with sources had a higher likelihood to have more newsworthy information amounting 77.8%. Similar relationship was found in case of *doing favor* for sources as well as *presenting gift* to sources in getting news. Table 2 also depicts that obtaining news related outcome increased gradually among the reporters who *attributed sources' name and quotation positively* sometimes and always with 79.4% and 80% respectively. Although this study found no significant association in obtaining daily event, news-clue and exclusive information for the reporters' *showing respect to off the record* and *concealing sources' name and identity*, but it was noteworthy that almost all reporters provided protection for their sources. News outcome was noted to be higher with 79.4% among reporters who had sometimes *put emphasis on sources' suggestion* regarding reporting in newspaper followed by rarely *giving importance to sources' suggestion* (56.5%) and always *putting emphasis on sources' suggestion* (55.6%).

Table 2: Bivariate Analysis between Different Elements of Relationship Maintained by the Reporter with Routine News Source and Reporting Outcome

Independent Variables	Number (%)	Level of News Related Outcome		Chi-square	P-Value
		High (n = 67) Number(%)	Low (n = 38) Number(%)		
Maintaining friendly and good relationship				8.926	0.012*
Low	16 (15.2)	6 (37.5)	10 (62.5)		
Moderate	32 (30.5)	18 (56.2)	14 (43.8)		
High	57 (54.3)	43 (75.4)	14 (24.6)		
Nurturing relationship in everyday life				14.498	0.001**
Low	13 (12.4)	4 (30.8)	9 (69.2)		
Moderate	29 (27.6)	14 (48.3)	15 (51.7)		
High	63 (60.0)	49 (77.8)	14 (22.2)		

Exploring the Effect of Reporter-Source Relationship on Reporting Outcome

Doing favor				11.053	0.004**
Rarely	44 (41.9)	20 (45.5)	24 (54.5)		
Sometimes	30 (28.6)	23 (76.7)	7 (23.3)		
Always	31 (29.5)	24 (77.4)	7 (22.6)		
Presenting gift				8.373	0.015*
Rarely	81 (77.1)	46 (56.8)	35 (43.2)		
Sometimes	16 (15.2)	13 (81.2)	3 (18.8)		
Always	08 (7.6)	8 (100.0)	0 (00.0)		
Attributing source's name & quotes positively in report				12.051	0.002**
Rarely	51 (48.6)	24 (47.1)	27 (52.9)		
Sometimes	34 (32.4)	27 (79.4)	7 (20.6)		
Always	20 (19.0)	16 (80.0)	4 (20.0)		
Showing respect to 'off the record'				1.931	0.381
Rarely	09 (8.6)	4 (44.4)	5 (55.6)		
Sometimes	08 (7.6)	6 (75.0)	2 (25.0)		
Always	88 (83.8)	57 (64.8)	31 (35.2)		
Concealing sources' name and identity				1.787	0.409
Rarely	03 (2.9)	2 (66.7)	1 (33.3)		
Sometimes	01 (0.9)	0 (00.0)	1 (100.0)		
Always	101 (96.2)	65 (64.4)	36 (35.6)		
Putting emphasis on source's suggestion to reporting				5.303	0.071
Rarely	62 (59.0)	35 (56.5)	27 (43.5)		
Sometimes	34 (32.4)	27 (79.4)	7 (20.6)		
Always	09 (8.6)	5 (55.6)	4 (44.4)		

Rows against the categories of variables sum to 100%. P-Values are based on chi-square (χ^2) test.

** $P < 0.05$, ** $P < 0.01$.*

Association between reporting outcome and different elements of relationship maintained by reporters with their key routine sources in the beat

Bivariate analyses were done to see the association of each component of relationship with the outcome pertaining to news. On the bivariate analyses different variables concerning relationship maintained by the reporters were found to be significantly associated with news gathering. Using Pearson's chi-square test (Tables 2), significant predictors of having desired reporting outcome were *friendly and good relationship maintaining* by the reporters with their key sources ($\chi^2 = 8.926$; $p = 0.012$), *nurturing relationship* in everyday life ($\chi^2 = 14.498$; $p = 0.001$), *doing favor* ($\chi^2 = 11.053$; $p = 0.004$), *presenting gift* ($\chi^2 = 8.373$; $p = 0.015$) and *attributing source's name and quotes positively* in the report ($\chi^2 = 12.051$; $p = 0.002$).

A correlation analysis (Table 3) was performed to determine the relationship between news related outcome and different elements of relationship maintained by reporters with their key sources. Spearman's correlation showed that news related outcome was significantly greater with more *maintaining friendly and good relationship* with sources ($r = .40$, $p < 0.01$), more *nurturing relationship* in everyday life ($r = .49$, $p < 0.01$), more *doing favor* ($r = .33$, $p < 0.01$) and more *presenting gift* ($r = .28$, $p < 0.01$). In addition, reporter's news outcome was positively correlated with *concealing source's identity* ($r = .24$, $p < 0.05$) and *putting emphasis on source's suggestion* regarding reporting in newspaper ($r = .23$, $p < 0.05$). This study could not be sure why data did not find any relationship between news outcome and attributing source name and quotes positively as well as showing respect to off the record.

We also analyzed the correlations between eight components of relationship used in this study. Among elements of reporter-source relationship maintaining friendly relationship had positive association with nurturing relationship ($r = .64$, $p < 0.01$), doing favor ($r = .35$, $p < 0.01$) and presenting gift ($r = .34$, $p < 0.01$). In case of nurturing relationship, we found a positive connection with doing favor ($r = .39$, $p < 0.01$) and presenting gift ($r = .32$, p

<0.01). It is also noticeable that, the reporters who did favor for their sources were more likely to present gift them ($r = .52, p < 0.01$).

Table 3: Spearman's Correlation between Reporting Outcome and Different Elements of Relationship Maintained by the Reporters with Key Routine Sources in the Beat

Variables	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Maintain Friendship	—								
Nurturing relationship	.64**	—							
Doing a favor	.35**	.39**	—						
Presenting Gift	.34**	.32**	.52**	—					
Attributing source	.04	.14	-.09	.06	—				
Respect to 'off the record'	.03	.05	-.03	.11	.47**	—			
Concealing source's identity	.01	.04	.21*	.26**	.11	.19*	—		
Following suggestion	.06	-.03	.20*	.16	.04	.16	.15	—	
News related Outcome	.40**	.49**	.33**	.28**	.07	.05	.24*	.23*	—

*. Correlation is significant at the 0.05 level (2-tailed)

**. Correlation is significant at the 0.01 level (2-tailed)

DISCUSSION

From the data analysis, it is found that there are some effects of reporter-source relationship on reporting outcome. The findings of the study are discussed with regard to different elements of relationship between reporters and routine sources.

Maintaining friendly and good relationship: The reporters have to establish rapport and amicable relationship with news sources through good manners and courtesy etc. (Charnley & Charnley, 1979). Indeed, this element of relationship is the primary prerequisite of effective dyadic interpersonal relationship. Reporters have to chat, spend time, offer birthday greetings, show interest in their work, their family, get the names of children and spouse and use them and have lunch or dinner together. In return, the reporters get desired information from them. This study also found this basic element as a predictor for gathering news in both bivariate and correlation analysis.

Nurturing relationship in everyday life: Generally after building good relationship reporters who take care of their sources regularly get more newsworthy information from them (Mencher, 1991). In this stage, reporters have to pay more attention to psychological aspects such as practicing mutual understanding, having patience and being compassionate. Our findings through statistical analysis reported significant association between this element of relationship and reporting outcome.

Doing a favour: Reporters have to do *favours* to the routine sources in every opportunity, as the reporters frequently ask the sources to do favours for them, for instance, giving their time, sharing information, looking up records and providing documents (Mencher, 1991). If a source wants a favour in return, the reporter cannot decline unless it would be unethical (Brooks, Kennedy, Moen, & Ranly, 1992). Most of the time, the favours asked by the sources usually are small things. This study observed a strong impact of this element on reporter's news product from chi-square test and Spearman's correlation.

Presenting gift: In Bangladesh's perspective, this element of relationship was included in the study questionnaire by the researchers from their previous experience as reporters. Some sources often become happy having a tiny gift from reporter such as a birthday gift, a pen probably he got while covering an assignment of corporate organization. Here, it is traditional exchange between reporters and sources, and in some cases sources also provide the reporters with 'gift' to cajole reporters to make story in favor of them enhancing their own status or position. However, our findings depict a positive association between *presenting gift* and getting desired news from two non-parametric analyses; although data report that three-fourth of the reporters rarely practice this element.

Attributing source's name and quotes positively in report: For getting intimacy with sources, the intelligent reporters often *attribute their name and quotes* in the report (Neal & Brown, 1997). In Bangladesh, often some sources in position of power and politics provide reporters with

news information aiming at publishing their name and speeches in newspaper. Bivariate analysis of this study found a significant relationship between two variables.

Showing respect to ‘off the record’: Neal & Brown (1997) mention that when sources use the phrase ‘*off the record*,’ it may have different meaning. So, the reporters should interrupt quickly and make them explain what they mean. Does the source mean that the reporter can’t use what he or she is about to tell him under any circumstance? Or does the person mean that it’s all right to use as long as the reporter don’t attribute it. Is the source trying to tell the reporter something for publication, or only for background information? However, according to the professional ethics, a reporter must be obliged by ‘off the record’. Our study also illustrate that 83.8 percent respondents always maintain it. This is why, no significant association was found in this regard in both statistical analyses.

Concealing sources’ name and identity: Many sources in government, such as politicians, bureaucrats and officials, want to supply information and documents to a reporter with the terms of not willing to print their names in the report. If the reporter agrees to protect a source, he must do it (Brooks, Kennedy, Moen, & Ranly, 1992). In our country, the reporters also do not reveal the sources’ identity due to traditional and ethical obligation. Our findings support this generalization as respondents maintain this practice accounting 96.2 percent. As like as previous element, no relationship was reported in chi-square test, while a positive correlation was seen between news outcome and protection of sources.

Putting emphasis on source’s suggestion to reporting: In our country, sometimes powerful sources often try to influence the reporter regarding the reporting process, as they think that they have right to do this as they provide with the information. They suggest reporters on different issues, such as, whether and when it should be published, particular angle and aspect of the story, which information should be emphasized and which to be concealed etc. As it is seen in present study, only 8.6 percent of the

reporters *put emphasis on source's suggestion* in terms of reporting resulting in no relationship between two variables, while Spearman's correlation found an association in this regard.

CONCLUSION

In summary, several findings found that most of the reporters reported high level of *maintaining friendly and good relationship, nurturing relationship* in everyday life, *showing respect to 'off the record' and concealing sources identity* among the eight elements of relationship studied in this research. Besides, different elements of routine source-reporter relationship were found as significant predictor for getting high level of news related outcome. Particularly, in bivariate analysis, *nurturing relationship* in everyday life, *doing favor* and *attributing source's name and quotes positively* in the report were appeared as significant determinants of obtaining high level news outcome. In addition, *friendly relationship maintained* by the reporters with their key sources and *presenting gift* were also associated with getting newsworthy product. These results were also appeared to be consistent with Spearman's correlation having some deviation.

This study has several limitations that should be considered in conducting further study on this issue. First of all, reporters working with national dailies in Bangladesh's capital Dhaka and reporters from other district and upazila (sub-district) levels were not included in the study. If these samples could be included one would have got another perspective on source-reporter relationship.

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